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No. IX.

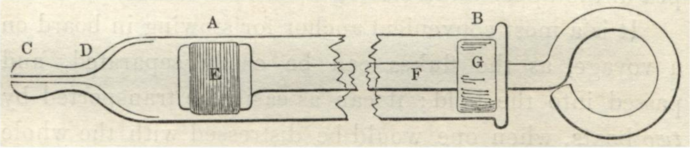
GLASS SYRINGE.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to WILLIAM ACTON, *Esq., No. 5 George Street, Hanover Square, for his Improved Glass Syringe; a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.*

BEFORE the introduction of Mr. Acton's syringe, the instruments in use consisted chiefly of two patterns,—the one being formed of a thin glass tube, finely pointed at its extremity, and having a wooden piston, the other consisting also of a glass tube, having a conical shaped extremity of ivory, and furnished with a metal piston.

The price of this instrument precluded the poorer class of patients from obtaining it; moreover, as nitrate of silver is frequently used in the injections, the ivory became discoloured, and the metal corroded, added to which the pointed extremity was found to be dangerous in practice.

Mr. Acton's syringe consists of a stout glass tube A B, half an inch in diameter, and altogether, four inches and a half long, including the bulb at the extremity, through which is the canal C D, half an inch in length; the piston and rod E F are also of glass, having a sinking left at E, as usual, on which to wind the thread packing: a piece of cork G forms the stuffing through which the rod passes.



The bulb C may vary in size and form, according to the particular object the surgeon has in view.

White Friars, Glass Works,
May 20, 1841.

From reference to our books it does appear that the first order for syringes we received was from you in the early part of May, 1841, prior to which, we believe, none had been made entirely of glass.

For Powell and Sons,
To Mr. Acton. James Green.

No. X.

IMPROVED BEACON-BUOY.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. J. Farrant, of Penzance, Cornwall, for his Improved Beacon Buoy.

22 Duke Street, Westminster,
March 9, 1841.

Sir,

At the request of a member of your body I send you a description of a floating buoy, of which I gave an outline at one of your late meetings. This buoy, although used abroad, has never been employed in England, and indeed, that on foreign coasts was inefficient from a bad system of mooring. On my return to England, I found that a poor man (late a master mariner) had contrived a similar buoy without any knowledge of what had been done in other countries. I have procured from him a sketch of his plan, which I enclose; and, should you deem the contrivance a good one, it will give me much pleasure to find that you have conferred on this poor man a mark of your approbation. His address is at the head of the